

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Harald Hess )  
Serial No.: ) Group: 1762  
Filed: July 6, 2001 )  
Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR APPLYING ) Examiner: J. Calcagni  
A COATING MEDIUM ONTO A MOVING SURFACE )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents identified on the attached form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests that these documents be made of record in the present application.

German Patent Document No. DE 44 25 655 A1 relates to a device for electrostatic spray coating of work pieces provides that the work pieces themselves represent part of a backplate electrode carrying an opposite potential to the spray device. Further, a cleaning device is provided following the delivery location of the work pieces which removes the residual coating medium from the conveyor surface. This permits recirculation of the aforementioned coating medium, ensuring that the coating medium may practically be used completely.

German Patent Document No. DE 43 09 647 A1 relates to a device for coating of items - preferably contoured items- with a coating medium, for example lacquers and inks, comprising rolls for backing and forward moving of the items, and comprising means for the application of the coating medium and means for distribution and smoothing of the coating medium. The new device is characterized in that air nozzles are provided as a means for distribution and smoothing of the coating medium after the coating medium applicators, viewed in direction of work item travel.

German Patent Document No. DE 197 51 972 A1 relates to a device for dusting of a sheet utilizing a powder gas curtain containing a powder medium, whereby the powder gas curtain is aligned with the path through which the sheets travel and supplies the sheets from one side, which is

downward facing in a stack that is formed from dusted sheets. This permits a relatively short travel distance of the powder product prior to its impact with the sheets, and thereby provides a better yield of powder application onto the sheet.

German Patent Document No. DE 33 01 909 C1 relates to a device for the application of a liquid medium, specifically viscous printing ink onto rolls in sheet and roll converting machinery. Fig. 1 illustrates that the medium (in this specific instance ink) is applied to a distribution plate from an adjustable controllable ink supply device. A feed roll, a smoothing roll are rotationally fixed to a rotating guide, so that the feed roll and the medium are distributed over the distribution plate and spread out during one rotation of the guide. The guide may rotate continuously or intermittently. This means that the ink volume which is to be transferred from the feed roll to the spreader roll can be significantly varied. Specifically, adjustments in the zero volume ink range, or in the ink range are marginally larger than zero possible. An additional smoothing roll is engaged with the feed roller, so that the medium is predistributed on the spreader roll.

German Patent Document No. DE 42 30 334 A1 relates to a method and ink supply device for the supply of the printing ink to a printing press print station, providing separate supply of printing ink and an additive. The supply of printing inks with an additive in a printing press - specifically in sheet offset printing - occurs from separate containers for printing ink and additive to the inking unit whereby mixing of the two components occurs either prior to entry into the inking unit by means of a mixer in the inking unit itself whereby the two components are applied onto the same or onto different rolls in the inking unit and are brought together as a result of their interaction.

German Patent Document No. DE 43 14 077 A1 relates to a device for the continuous application of a minimum amount of a liquid onto a material web. It is a technological advantage if textiles can be supplied evenly across the working width with a small quantity of liquid. It must be noted that this liquid is intended to moisten the textile product - for example a printed web prior to vaporizing - with a minimum layer, without formation of droplets. For this purpose we suggest a device in which an endless belt picks up the liquid, brings it to the textile product and transfers it to same. For this purpose the endless belt is located in the transfer area, running in an upward direction. The top side of the endless belt is to be supplied with the liquid that is to be transferred and the endless belt then transports the liquid layer immediately to the textile product which is

located parallel to the driven endless belt. Surface configuration, material and incline of the continuous belt are parameters with which the thickness of the liquid layer that is to be transferred can be influenced.

German Patent Document No. DE 42 35 696 A1 relates to a method for controlling a sample product run on a test application device. The test application device comprises a temperature sensor for sensing an involved temperature, a moisture sensor for sensing an involved moisture, a counter control unit which - prior to introducing a sample such as blood serum- freely and continuously controls an application waiting period and application time which are necessary in order to maintain a carrier element which is provided at the lower end of an application end component in a suitable wet condition in accordance with those resistance values which are determined by the temperature and moisture sensors, and further comprising a motor control unit, a motor, etc., which are connected with the counter control unit and which, if the carrier element is maintained in a suitable wet condition, move the application end component toward the sample in accordance with an output from the counter control unit and which supply the sample to the carrier element.

German Patent Document No. DE 41 16 707 A1 relates to a method and ink supply device for the supply of the printing ink to a printing press printing station, comprising separate feeds for printing ink and drying substance or reactant. The supply of skin-forming or two-component printing ink to the inking unit of a printing press, specifically in sheet offset printing occurs from separate containers for printing ink and drying substance or reactant to the inking unit whereby mixing of the two components occurs either prior to entry into the inking unit by means of a mixer in the inking unit itself whereby the two components are applied onto the same or onto different rolls in the inking unit and are brought together as a result of their interaction.

German Patent Document No. DE-GM 76 15 651 relates to a device to produce the smallest water droplets which can be sprayed precisely metered and targeted by a device in which a piezo oscillator which is provided underneath a liquid container and which vaporizes the liquid column that is present in the liquid container, whereby the liquid molecules can be directed onto the object that is to be moistened by a device that is located in the container.

German Patent Document No. DE 36 11 729 A1 relates to a liquid spraying device for spraying leather. Leather pieces are transported on a conveyor through a coating chamber. The

leather pieces are sprayed by means of spray nozzles which are arranged above the conveyor, comprising a high voltage component for electrostatic charging of the liquid and for the production of electric lines of force which progress from this high voltage component to an electrode body which is located below the transport for the leather pieces, so that the leather pieces are located within these lines of force during the liquid application process. This enables an electrostatic coating of the leather pieces, whereby the liquid will not run over the edges and thereby coat the back side.

German Patent Document No. DE 885 534 relates to a device for finishing of material webs by application of vaporized finishing medium which is sucked through the material web, in which an enclosed finishing chamber which is divided by the material web which is to be finished into a lower pressure or mist chamber containing the atomizer device and an upper suction chamber which is connected with a suction line.

German Patent Document No. AT 2 38 352 relates to a method for satisfactory explosion and fire proof conversion of explosive and combustible coating materials, in essentially enclosed coating equipment or varnishing chambers, i.e., spray or drain chambers of a flow coater in which non-combustible or combustion preventing gases and/or vapors and/or liquid vapors are introduced into the gas atmosphere of the coating equipment in such volumes that the resulting composition of the gas phase is outside the combustion or explosion limits.

German Patent Document No. AT 1 60 636 relates to a device for the treatment of image cylinders in rotogravure printing machinery, comprising a supply unit for ink solvents, or ink thinners, located between the print location and the inking location in which the supply unit for ink solvents, or ink thinners is designed at the same time to function as dryer apparatus.

PATENT

A copy of each of these documents can be found in the parent application, i.e., U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/301,194.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on: July 6, 2001.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

July 6, 2001

DATE